

## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

***More Than a Job: Final Results from the Evaluation of the Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO) Transitional Jobs Program.*** By Cindy Redcross, et al. MDRC. Jan. 2012. 166 p.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/616/overview.html>

CEO, a comprehensive employment program for former prisoners, provides temporary, paid jobs and other services to reduce the probability that former prisoners will be returned to prison. "The three-year evaluation found that CEO substantially increased employment early in the follow-up period but that the effects faded over time. The initial increase in employment was due to the temporary jobs provided by the program. After the first year, employment and earnings were similar for both the program group and the control group."

## DEMOGRAPHY

***U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births and Abortions, 2008: National Trends by Age, Race and Ethnicity.*** By Kathryn Kost, et al. Guttmacher Institute. Feb. 2012. 19 p.

<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/USTPtrends08.pdf>

“In 2008, the teen pregnancy rate was 67.8 pregnancies per 1,000 women aged 15–19, which means that about 7% of U.S. teens became pregnant that year. This rate represents a 42% decline from the peak in 1990 (116.9 per 1,000). Similarly, the birthrate declined 35% between 1991 and 2008, from 61.8 to 40.2 births per 1,000 teens; the abortion rate declined 59% from its 1988 peak of 43.5 abortions per 1,000 teens to its 2008 level of 17.8 per 1,000.”

## ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

***California Biomedical Industry 2012 Report.*** By David L. Gollaher, et al. California Healthcare Institute, Pricewaterhouse Coopers, and Bay-Bio. Feb. 2012. 36 p.

<http://pwchealth.com/cgi-local/hregister.cgi?link=reg/california-biomedical-industry-2012-report.pdf>

(Registration required)

“The California biomedical industry sustains well-paying jobs across a number of sectors, with biopharmaceutical positions averaging the highest....The San Francisco Bay Area continues to command the highest number of biomedical industry employees in the state, but Orange County and San Diego have enjoyed recent growth....Among the companies that expanded their in-state operations, the largest percentage (66%) credited California’s culture of entrepreneurship and innovation for that decision. The state’s skilled workforce came in a close second with 65%.”

***Index of Silicon Valley 2010.*** Joint Venture Silicon Valley Network and Silicon Valley Community Foundation. Feb. 2012. 80 p.

<http://www.jointventure.org/images/stories/pdf/2012index.pdf>

“Silicon Valley is creating jobs and wealth for highly skilled workers but may be leaving some residents behind....The region added 42,000 jobs, a jump of nearly 4%, compared with a nationwide increase of little more than 1%....Investments in software jumped in 2011, but the biggest leap was a doubling in backing for so-called clean technology. Most of the \$3 billion poured into the industry went toward efforts to develop alternative energy sources.” (*Sacramento Bee*, Feb. 8, 2012).

## EDUCATION

***California Workforce: Planning for a Better Future.*** By Hans Johnson. Public Policy Institute of California. Feb. 2012. 4p.

[http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R\\_212HJ2R.pdf](http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_212HJ2R.pdf)

“Projections to 2025 suggest that the economy will continue to need more – and more highly educated – workers, but that the state will not be able to meet that demand....If current trends persist, in 2025 only 35% of working-age adults in California will have at least a bachelor’s degree but 41% of jobs will require at least a bachelor’s degree. This equates to a shortfall of one million college graduates....Gradual increases in college enrollment rates, a 20% improvement in transfer rates, and an improvement in completion rates at CSU would, together, reduce the skills gap by one-half by 2025.” Further, alternative forms of post-secondary training are needed.

***Why Rural Matters 2011-2012: The Condition of Rural Education in the 50 States.*** By Marty Strange, et al. Rural School and Community Trust. Jan. 2012. 106 p.  
<http://www.ruraledu.org/articles.php?id=2820>

This biennial report analyzes “the contexts and conditions of rural education in each of the 50 states and calls attention to the need for policymakers to address rural education issues in their respective states....[O]ur intent is (1) to provide information and analyses that highlight the priority policy needs of rural public schools and the communities they serve, and (2) to describe the complexity of rural contexts in ways that can help policymakers better understand the challenges faced by their constituencies and formulate policies that are responsive to those challenges.”

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Inaccurate, Costly, and Inefficient: Evidence that America’s Voter Registration System Needs an Upgrade.*** The Pew Center on the States. Feb. 2012. 12 p.  
[http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/Pew\\_Upgrading\\_Voter\\_Registration.pdf](http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/Pew_Upgrading_Voter_Registration.pdf)

“The nation’s voter registration rolls are in disarray....The problems have the potential to affect the outcomes of local, state and federal elections. One in eight active registrations is invalid or inaccurate.... one in four people who are eligible to vote – at least 51 million potential voters – are not registered. The report found that there are about 1.8 million dead people listed as active voters. Some 2.8 million people have active registrations in more than one state. And 12 million registrations have errors serious enough to make it unlikely that mailings based on them will reach voters.” (*New York Times*, Feb. 14, 2012).

## HEALTH

***The Income Divide in Healthcare: How the Affordable Care Act Will Help Restore Fairness to the U.S. Health System.*** By Sara R. Collins, et al. The Commonwealth Fund. Feb 2012. 22 p.  
[http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Issue%20Brief/2012/Feb/1579\\_collins\\_income\\_divide\\_tracking\\_brief.pdf](http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Issue%20Brief/2012/Feb/1579_collins_income_divide_tracking_brief.pdf)

“Nearly three of five adults in families earning less than 133% of the federal poverty level were uninsured for a time in 2011; two of five were uninsured for one or more years. Low- and moderate-income adults who were uninsured during the year were much less likely to have a regular source of health care than people in the same income range who were insured all year. In addition, uninsured lower-income adults were more likely than insured adults in the same income group to cite factors other than medical emergencies as reasons for going to the emergency room. These included needing a prescription drug, not having a regular doctor, or saying that other places cost too much.”

## HOUSING

***Executive Summary of Multistate/Federal Settlement of Foreclosure Misconduct Claims.*** By Philip A. Lehman. Consumer Protection Division, North Carolina Department of Justice. Feb. 2012. 4 p.  
[http://www.atg.wa.gov/uploadedFiles/Home/About\\_the\\_Office/Cases/National\\_Mortgage\\_Settlement/National\\_Settlement\\_Executive\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.atg.wa.gov/uploadedFiles/Home/About_the_Office/Cases/National_Mortgage_Settlement/National_Settlement_Executive_Summary.pdf)

The landmark \$25 billion agreement between the nation’s five largest mortgage servicers, state governments and the federal government will offer monetary relief to homeowners and require reforms in mortgage loan servicing. The monetary package will go towards reductions in mortgage payments for homeowners, and to more than 40 states as restitution for foreclosure paperwork problems and other abuses by mortgage loan servicers.

***Rebuilding America: How States Can Save Millions of Homes Through Foreclosure Mediation.* By Geoff Walsh. National Consumer Law Center. Feb. 2012. 64 p.**

[http://www.nclc.org/images/pdf/foreclosure\\_mortgage/mediation/report-foreclosure-mediation.pdf](http://www.nclc.org/images/pdf/foreclosure_mortgage/mediation/report-foreclosure-mediation.pdf)

States having effective foreclosure mediation programs can reduce the number of foreclosures and establish sustainable loan modifications with very little cost to the state. Among the more effective approaches are third-party, supervised conferences between a loan servicer and homeowner, and documentation provided to homeowners on what money they might save by avoiding foreclosure.

## **HUMAN SERVICES**

***Child Care Subsidies, Maternal Well-Being, and Child-Parent Interactions: Evidence from Three Nationally Representative Datasets.* By Chris M. Herbst, et al. NBER Working Paper No. 17774. National Bureau of Economic Research. Jan. 2012. 49 p.**

<http://papers.nber.org/papers/w17774> (Available in the California State Library)

“Although the effects of child care subsidies on maternal employment and child development have been recently studied, many other dimensions of family well-being have received little attention. This paper attempts to fill this gap by examining the impact of child care subsidy receipt on maternal health and the quality of child-parent interactions. The empirical analyses use data from three nationally representative surveys, providing access to numerous measures of family well-being...[The] results consistently indicate that child care subsidies are associated with worse maternal health and poorer interactions between parents and their children...suggest[ing] that work-based public policies aimed at economically disadvantaged mothers may ultimately undermine family well-being.”

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